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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NAVAJO MAN SENTENCED FOR MURDER**

**PHOENIX** – The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on August 30, 2004, James Tsosie, DOB 11/20/71, of Kayenta, Ariz. on the Navajo Reservation, was sentenced to 110 months in prison and five years of supervised release for the Second Degree Murder of William Dillard, DOB 10/25/77. Tsosie was also ordered to reimburse Navajo County Victim Compensation for \$5,000, the amount paid for the victim's funeral services. The defendant pleaded guilty to Second Degree Murder, in violation of 18 U.S. Code, Section 1111, on June 15, 2004 before District Court Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt.

Dillard was reported missing by his parents in February 2003. His body, which had been buried in a remote area outside Kayenta, Ariz., was not discovered until September 2003. The victim, a former seaman with the Navy, had been visiting a friend on the reservation when he encountered James Tsosie at a party on February 28, 2003. Tsosie admitted to shooting Dillard later that same night and then burying his body in a remote field. In May 2003, Tsosie checked on the victim's body and re-buried it after noticing evidence of animal activity. Tsosie eventually revealed the location of the body to law enforcement on September 7, 2003. While Tsosie

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recanted his original claim of self-defense provided to investigators, he could not articulate a clear motive for the killing in court.

Dillard was a non-Indian whose family resides in Georgia. His parents drove from Georgia and his grandparents, from Ohio, to attend the sentencing and to address the Court. In the Navy, Dillard had been assigned to the Combat Weapons Department and was a member of the Sea Air Rescue Team.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI and the Navajo Division of Law Enforcement, Kayenta, Ariz.

The prosecution was handled by Soo Song, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

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